

Transportation Committee Public Hearing
March 11, 2022

Support with Amendments S.B. 4 - An Act Concerning the Connecticut Clean Air Act

Thank you Representative Lemar, Senator Haskell, Representative Carney, and Senator Somers for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of S.B. 4 - an act concerning the Connecticut clean air act. I am a resident of Cheshire and I urge you to pass S.B. 4.

I support this bill because I care about climate change and the world we are going to leave for our children. We need clean modes of transportation. They need to be affordable and accessible. E-bikes make cycling a real transportation alternative in Connecticut, not just a means of exercise. E-bikes expand the distance for realistic transportation by bike. Tax rebates would make cycling as a form of transportation accessible to a much larger population. Whether you cycle or not, reducing the number of cars on the road and giving people real alternatives would be good for all of us, especially our children.

More affordable e-bikes and wider adoption of cycling must be coupled with vital improvements to the safety of our streets for walkers and riders. I live only 2 miles from my office. Even with an e-bike, I would not feel safe cycling to work. I've lived in large cities and rode my bike everywhere, but Connecticut's streets are just not designed for safe biking. We must improve our infrastructure and change Connecticut's aggressive driving culture while we work to expand zero emission transportation such as cycling.

I ask that you amend S.B. 4 to increase the proposed cap on eligible bicycles from \$2,000 to at least \$3,000 to be able to include more of the car replacing electric cargo bikes and the inventory available in Connecticut's bike shops. I also ask that the bill be amended to increase the rebate for low- and moderate-income individuals from \$500 to at least \$1,000.

Thank you.

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